



## S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control

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### Official List of Conditions Requiring Exclusion from Schools for 2003 with Guidance Section

**Statutory authority: State law 1976 Code Sections 44-1-110, 44-1-140, and 44-29-10**

Regulation # 61-20 requires that children and employees in schools should be excluded from attendance if they have one or more of the conditions listed below. Schools should maintain a record of children excluded under this regulation. The school should give a copy of the list of conditions that require exclusion from schools to all parents and inform them that they must notify the school within 24 hours after their child has developed a known or suspected communicable disease. Children and staff may return to school as soon as the symptoms are resolved unless stated otherwise in the list below.

All schools should report confirmed cases of the following communicable diseases, and outbreaks or clusters of symptoms to the local county health department.

#### Guidance for Implementing Official List of Conditions Requiring Exclusion from Schools

- The Exclusion from Schools List helps schools and parents know when children and staff members with conditions that may be spread to others should stay out of school. There is also an Exclusion from Out-of-Home Childcare Settings List. The list for out-of-home childcare settings is different from the list for schools because infants and young children often require care that involves close staff contact and often engage in close play. Another reason is that young children's systems for fighting infections are not mature.
- In a school setting, the Exclusion from Schools List should be used for children in Grades 1 – 12, except in classrooms for children with medically fragile conditions. The Exclusion from Out-of-Home Childcare Settings List should be used for classrooms of children with medically fragile conditions and children in grades K-3, K-4, and K-5. These children may be more susceptible to infections and often require care that involves close staff contact.
- The type of note needed for a student or staff member to return to school is listed in the tables that follow. The notes should be kept on file at the school for at least one calendar year. Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Physician's Assistants or SC DHEC Health Department staff may write medical notes for return to school following an excludable condition.
- If a child or staff member does not respond to treatment, the health care provider or the health department may suggest longer periods of exclusion.
- If there is a disease outbreak or special circumstances, SC DHEC may change the recommendations in the Exclusion from Schools List and/or the Exclusion from Out-of-Home Childcare Settings List.

**ALL CHILDREN with the following conditions in schools must be excluded from attendance:**

Exclusion Criteria	Documentation for Return
▪ Illness that prevents the child from participating comfortably in program activities.	School to specify based on situation.
▪ Illness that results in a greater need for care than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.	School to specify based on situation.
▪ The child has any of the following conditions: lethargy, severe irritability, difficult breathing, or other manifestations of possible severe illness.	School to specify based on situation.
▪ Uncontrolled diarrhea, or stools that contain blood or mucus.	School to specify based on situation.
▪ Infection with <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7, or other shiga-toxin producing E.Coli, until diarrhea resolves and 2 stool cultures are negative.	Medical Note
▪ <i>Shigella</i> infection, until completion of 5 days of appropriate antibiotic treatment as determined by sensitivity test, or until 2 stool cultures are negative.	Medical Note
▪ <i>Salmonella typhi</i> (typhoid fever) infection, until treatment is completed and three stool cultures are negative at least 48 hours after completion of drug treatment. (Nontyphoidal salmonella infections do not require treatment or negative stool cultures prior to readmission to school.)	Medical Note for Typhoid Parent Note for Non-typhoidal
▪ Rash with fever or behavioral change, until a physician has determined the illness is not a communicable disease.	Medical Note
▪ Purulent conjunctivitis (defined as pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye discharge, often with matted eyelids after sleep and eye pain or redness of the eyelids or skin surrounding the eye), until after the first treatment.	Medical Note
▪ Tuberculosis, until the local health department authority or <u>treating</u> physician states that the child is noninfectious.	Medical Note
▪ Streptococcal pharyngitis, until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated.	Medical Note
▪ Head lice (pediculosis), from the end of the day until after the first treatment.	Parent Note
▪ Scabies, until after treatment has been applied.	Medical Note
▪ Varicella (chickenpox), until all lesions have dried and crusted (usually 6 days).	Parent Note
▪ Varicella-Herpes Zoster (shingles), with lesions that cannot be covered, until lesions are crusted.	Parent Note
▪ Pertussis, until completion of 5 days of appropriate antibiotic therapy.	Medical Note
▪ Mumps, until 9 days after onset of parotid gland swelling.	Medical Note
▪ Measles, until 4 days after onset of rash.	Medical Note

**ALL CHILDREN with the following conditions in schools must be excluded from attendance:**

Exclusion Criteria	Documentation for Return
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Rubella, until 7 days after onset of rash. Congenital Rubella until 1 year of age unless nasopharyngeal and urine cultures after 3 months of age are repeatedly negative for rubella virus.</li></ul>	Medical Note
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection, until 1 week after onset of illness or jaundice (if symptoms are mild).</li></ul>	Medical Note

**Exclusion List for Children and Staff who are contacts (exposed) to individuals with excludable conditions:**

<b>Exclusion Criteria</b>	<b>Documentation for Return</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ When recommended by the health department, contacts to <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib), <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> (meningococcal disease), or pertussis should be excluded until antibiotic treatment has been initiated.</li></ul>	Medical Note
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Other conditions when recommended by DHEC or the private physician.</li></ul>	SC DHEC or physician to specify based upon situation.

**Children not immunized must be excluded if exposed to:**

- Measles
- Rubella
- Mumps
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Other conditions when recommended by DHEC

NOTE: SC DHEC will provide guidance on an individual basis regarding when a child who is not sufficiently immunized may return to school following an exposure to one of the diseases listed above.

**References:**

American Public Health Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, Caring For Our Children, National Health and Safety Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Chapter 3, HP 68, 2002, US Department of Health and Human Services, <http://nrc.uchsc.edu/national/>

American Academy of Pediatrics, Red Book 2000, Elk Grove Village, IL

American Academy of Pediatrics, Pennsylvania Chapter, Model Child Care Health Policies, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 1997, Healthy Child Care Pennsylvania, Rosemont, PA

American Academy of Pediatrics, Barton Schmitt, MD, Pediatric Telephone Protocols, Office Version, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition,

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The ABCs of Safe and Health Child Care, [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/abc/abc.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/abc/abc.htm)